

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01583 010521Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /054 W
----- 067497

R 010414Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7613
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1583

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AS US PFOR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK

1. ON FEBRUARY 27, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, AMBASSADOR HARGROVE, AND OTHERS MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK, AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE PARKINSON, AND DAF OFFICIALS FOR HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. HABIB SAID WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO PEACOCK'S VISIT TO THE U.S., INCLUDING A LUNCH WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

3. HABIB EMPHASIZED THAT BASIC U.S. POLICIES WOULD CONTINUE DESPITE FACT THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR. THE USG WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE FURTHER PROGRESS IN SALT TALKS AND IN MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, AND WILL DEFEND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

4. HABIB SAID WE STILL LOOK TO AUSTRALIA AS A CLOSE CONSULTANT AND A PARTNER. EACH SIDE AGREED THAT THE OTHER IS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 01583 010521Z

VERY IMPORTANT TO IT. HABIB SAID WE LOOK TO AUSTRALIA

TO DO SOME THINGS WE CANNOT DO. PEACOCK SAID THAT IF AUSTRALIA HAS A ROLE, IT IS WHAT IT CAN DO WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. PEACOCK SAID THE ANZUS ALLIANCE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN POLICY. HABIB SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE U.S. WILL KEEP ITS ANZUS COMMITMENT; THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW TO DIVIDE THE TASK.

5. PEACOCK SAID HE HAD FEARED THAT THE U.S. WOULD TAKE THE LIBERAL NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY GOVERNMENT FOR GRANTED. HABIB SAID THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, THOUGH THERE MAY HAVE BEEN LAPSES ON CONSULTATION DUE TO THE PRESSURE OF EVENTS. HABIB SAID HE HAD COME TO THE ANZUS OFFICIALS TALKS IN WELLINGTON TO SHOW OUR INTEREST IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND ASSURED PEACOCK THAT A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP EXISTS.

6. HABIB, NOTING HIS VISITS TO FIJI AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SAID WE LOOK TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND TO LOOK AFTER THESE AREAS. HABIB URGED AUSTRALIA TO PAY ATTENTION TO FIJI.

7. HABIB SAID WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN THE TIMOR SITUATION. PEACOCK SAID TIMOR IS A MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR AUSTRALIA. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THE BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE AN EARLY ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, A REPORT FROM WINSPEARE-GUCCIARDI WHICH WE CAN ACCEPT, AND INTEGRATION INTO INDONESIA.

8. PEACOCK NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA HAD PUBLICLY STATED ITS SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS ON SEVERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE EXPANSION OF FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA. HABIB SAID WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THIS.

9. PEACOCK SAID THAT THE GOA WILL GO ALONG WITH US ON AN OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION IN AUSTRALIA. ON NPW VISITS, HABIB NOTED HIS CONVERSATION WITH NEW ZEALAND PM MULDOON AND INVITED THE GOA TO LET US KNOW WHEN AND WHERE WE SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST PORT VISIT. PEACOCK SAID THE FRASER GOVERNMENT HAD MADE A DECISION THAT NPW VISITS NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED IN THE FIRST PLACE. THE GOA IS WILLING TO PUT UP WITH THE FLAK IT WILL GET

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CANBER 01583 010521Z

ON AN NPW VISIT. PEACOCK, THINKING ALOUD, SUGGESTED THAT AUGUST MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER.

10. PEACOCK SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT HABIB WAS GOING TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA. PEACOCK SAID THE BOUGAINVILLE SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT IS BASICALLY PNG'S PROBLEM, BUT IT HAS SPIN-OFF EFFECTS; IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO CREATE A BAD PRECE-

DENT FOR THE REGION. PEACOCK THOUGHT THE GPNG WOULD HAVE TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER AUTONOMY AND MORE MONEY FOR BOUGAINVILLE, BUT HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF SECESSION AT THIS STAGE. PEACOCK THOUGHT SOMARE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SPLIT THE SECESSIONISTS.

11. PEACOCK SAID AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE TO HANDLE THE TIMOR AND BOUGAINVILLE PROBLEMS, AND WOULD LOOK AFTER THE SOMARE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID PNG HAD FIRST CALL ON AUSTRALIA'S AID. PEACOCK SAID THE SITUATION IN PNG WAS ONE REASON WHY AUSTRALIA HAD TO SPEAK OUT ON TIMOR.

12. PEACOCK SAID THE DEMONSTRATION OF SOVIET STRENGTH IN ANGOLA IS A WORRY. HABIB MADE CLEAR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY THAT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. PEACOCK SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THESE WORDS, AND THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS FIRMER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED.

13. PEACOCK SAID AUSTRALIA MUST KEEP ITS RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM GOING ON A NORMAL BASIS. AFTER EXPLAINING OUR VIEWS ON NORMALIZATION OF US-NORTH VIET NAM RELATIONS, HABIB SAID WE HAD NO OBJECTION TO AUSTRALIA GOING AHEAD DELIBERATELY AND CAREFULLY. IF AUSTRALIA CAN GET INTO CAMBODIA, IT SHOULD. PEACOCK SAID AUSTRALIA CAN'T AT THIS TIME. LAOS AND THAILAND ALSO WERE DISCUSSED.

14. ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, HABIB SUGGESTED AUSTRALIA MIGHT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE GROUP. PEACOCK SAID HE HAD NOT MADE UP HIS MIND ON THIS, BUT THOUGHT AUSTRALIA MIGHT PLAY A BETTER ROLE THROUGH A CONSENSUS GROUP.

15. PEACOCK CLOSED BY STATING THAT AUSTRALIA IS COMMITTED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 CANBER 01583 010521Z

TO ASSISTING THE U.S. IN ITS GLOBAL ROLE BY WHAT IT DOES IN THE REGION. HARGROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER01583
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760077-0134
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603109/aaaadrwx.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK
TAGS: PFOR, AS, US, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (PEACOCK, ANDREW S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006